

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN EA-10

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB - CLSTERMER:MFG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - HELICOPTER DELIVERY

REF: RANGOON 1588

1. REGARDING YOUR UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN (REFTEL) OVER THESE REPEATED DELIVERY DELAYS, WE FIRST WANT TO CLARIFY THAT AID PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT AT FAULT. THE PROBLEM INVOLVES COMPETITIVE BIDDING WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL CARRIER INDUSTRY, CAB RULINGS ON CARRIER ROUTES, AND DOD STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON AIRLIFTING NON-MILITARY COMMODITIES WHEN COMMERCIAL CARRIERS ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY COST. APPROPRIATE LEVEL EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO UNTIE THIS GORDIAN KNOT AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THEY WILL PROVE SUCCESSFUL SHORTLY. WE REGRET THIS AWKWARD SITUATION AND KNOW IT IS CAUSING YOU PROBLEMS, BUT WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO FIND AN EARLY SOLUTION.

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2. TO ILLUSTRATE THE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX SITUATION, WE HAVE NOW BECOME AWARE THAT BECAUSE THE BELL STRIKE DID NOT MATERIALIZE, THE FOURTH HELICOPTER MOST LIKELY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT IN ABOUT TEN DAYS. THUS, INSTEAD OF AIRLIFTING THREE HELICOPTERS IN ONE AIRCRAFT, WHICH THE COMMERCIAL CARRIERS COULD NOT DO, WE NOW FORESEE THE

POSSIBILITY AND LOGIC OF SENDING TWO HELICOPTERS EACH IN TWO SEPARATE AIRCRAFT TOGETHER WITH AVAILABLE SPARE PARTS, WHICH THE COMMERCIAL CARRIERS CAN DO. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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